

***Status of the Claims***

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application.

Claims 1-49 (Cancelled)

50. (New) A system, comprising:

- a connection system;
- a reticle plate including connecting areas that receive the connection system;
- a mounting plate that is coupled to the reticle plate via the connection system; and
- a connector that is used to couple the mounting plate to a robot, wherein the connection system allows the reticle plate to be rigidly secured to the mounting plate in first through third degrees of freedom and compliantly secured to the mounting plate in fourth through sixth degrees of freedom.

51. (New) The system of claim 50, wherein the connection system comprises:

- flexures that are position in the connecting areas of the reticle plate;
- a first set of securing devices that secure the flexures to the reticle plate;

and

- a second set of securing devices that secure the mounting plate to the reticle plate and the flexures.

52. (New) The system of claim 51, wherein the connection system further comprises:

- a locking device on a surface of the mounting plate that interacts with the reticle plate, the locking device releaseably securing the mounting plate to the reticle plate.

53. (New) The system of claim 52, wherein the locking device is a vacuum lock.

54. (New) The system of claim 50, wherein the reticle plate further comprises a reticle securing system to releaseably hold a reticle.

55. (New) The system of claim 54, wherein the reticle securing system comprises a vacuum system.

56. (New) The system of claim 55, wherein the vacuum system comprises lands and seals.

57. (New) The system of claim 50, wherein the first through third degrees of freedom substantially eliminate out-of-plane movement of the reticle plate with respect to the mounting plate.

58. (New) The system of claim 50, wherein the fourth through sixth degrees of freedom allow a predetermined amount of in-plane movement of the reticle plate with respect to the mounting plate.

59. (New) The system of claim 50, wherein the robot holds the reticle plate and mounting plate in a horizontal position during a first state and a vertical position during a second state.

60. (New) A system, comprising:

a means for connecting a reticle plate to a mounting plate to substantially eliminate out-of-plane movement of the reticle plate with respect to the mounting plate and allow a predetermined amount of in-plane movement of the reticle plate with respect to the mounting plate; and

a connector that is used to couple the mounting plate to a robot.

61. (New) The system of claim 60, wherein the means for connecting comprises:

flexures that are position in connecting areas of the reticle plate;

a first set of securing devices that secure the flexures to the reticle plate;

and

a second set of securing devices that secure the mounting plate to the reticle plate and the flexures.

62. (New) The system of claim 61, wherein the means for connecting further comprises:

a locking device on a surface of the mounting plate that interacts with the reticle plate, the locking device releaseably securing the mounting plate to the reticle plate.

63. (New) The system of claim 62, wherein the locking device is a vacuum lock.

64. (New) The system of claim 60, wherein the reticle plate further comprises a means for securing a reticle to the reticle plate.

65. (New) The system of claim 64, wherein the means for securing comprises a vacuum system.

66. (New) The system of claim 65, wherein the vacuum system comprises lands a seals.

67. (New) The system of claim 60, wherein the robot holds the reticle plate and mounting plate in a horizontal position during a first state and a vertical position during a second state.

68. (New) A system, comprising:  
a connection system;  
a reticle plate including connecting areas that receive the connection system;  
a mounting plate that is coupled to the reticle plate via the connection system; and  
a connector that is used to couple the mounting plate to a robot,  
wherein the connection system substantially eliminates out-of-plane movement of the reticle plate with respect to the mounting plate and allows a predetermined amount of in-plane movement of the reticle plate with respect to the mounting plate.